Title : Need to send a Central team to Karnataka to assess the situation caused by drought and provide adequate financial assistance to the State.

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (MYSORE): Madam, the farmers in Karnataka suffered a serious setback following the severe drought conditions that prevailed in several areas of that State. The failure of an anticipated projection of monsoon in June has affected a large number of districts and on account of this, nearly 50 per cent of the Kharif areas in that State suffered. The shortfall has affected the sowing of pulses, oilseeds and cereals like Jowar, Bajra and other minor millets. Even the traditional potato belt has been severely affected by the drought.

Unless a contingency programme is drawn up to extend necessary help to the affected farmers, their economy will not improve and the farmers will continue to suffer.

I urge upon the Central Government to send a Central team to study the situation and make an on the spot assessment. I also request for the sanction of adequate Central assistance to the State Government of Karnataka to combat the drought situation without any further delay.